

A St GEORGE MUDDLE

The picture shown on page 4 of number 184 actually showed the 15th century painting by Pedro Nisart from the Musio Diocesano de Mallorca. The picture that ought to have been there, from the official handbook for the Helston Furry Dance in Cornwall, that Roger Seabury sent, has gone missing. Instead, here is a Russian Orthodox icon on the same subject.



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A Cheerful Chinese Dragon



The College of Dracology for the Study of Fabulous Beasts



Saint Edward the Confessor was King of England in the eleventh century and when he died was succeeded by Earl Harold of Wessex, though Duke William of Normandy believed he had been promised the throne with consequences that have etched the date 1066 into our national consciousness. Edward had been such an exemplary monarch that he was raised to the Sainthood and remained England's Patron Saint, replacing Saint Alban, until supplanted in turn by Saint George in the fourteenth century. His feast day falls on 13th October and what little we know about him was related in No 23 in 2001, our first issue to use colour.

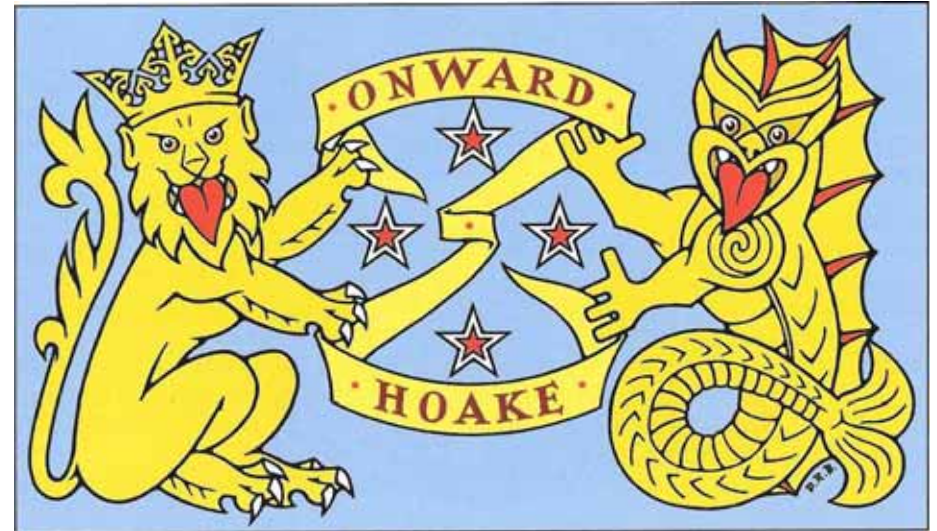
The picture on the cover is one of the best of the many that are sent in. Please continue to send in pictures and articles so that there are plenty to choose from. I cannot promise that everything sent in will reach our pages, but all will be considered and appreciated.

It is hardly surprising how much Chinese Dragons have proliferated in the press in recent times, since China has become more involved in global affairs, and its Dragon is a useful visual shorthand to represent the country. There was a time when this sort of thing was much more common than it is now, and political cartoons in old copies of *Punch* would be full of Russian Bears, German and Austrian Eagles (with one and two heads respectively), Lions for England (or should we say Britain, though we hardly ever did in those days), Bald Eagles (actually a kind of Vulture) for the United States, Canada's Beaver, Cockerels for France and, of course, Turkeys, complete with fez. Apart from China, fabulous beasts seldom appeared, though for military purposes a Sphinx represented service in Egypt and a Lamassu service in Mesopotamia, while service in India was represented by a Bengal Tiger, and that in China by an appropriate Dragon, these last appearing on regimental cap badges, a couple of which were shown on our No 2.

JOURNAL SCAN

The Heraldry Gazette No 141 September 2016 (arrived 30th Sept) has little for us except a repeat picture of the Buogriff, as identified in our No 183.

The New Zealand ARMORIST No. 140 Spring 2016 (came in October) has a drawing by Roger Barnes with a sejant lion and a taniwha (a Maori water monster that we have seen before in various guises) on a farewell card for the departing Governor-General (*below*).



Also in colour are some Bath Stall Plates with Griffin supporters for the 2nd Earl of Liverpool and a blue Sea-Lion for one of his crests, a pair of winged Sea Griffins supporting the arms of Earl Jellicoe and the arms of Baron Newall with a Pegasus on either side (all three former Governors-General), a vigorous carved Unicorn with the Royal Arms over a doorway in Christchurch and finally a pair of winged horses on a birthday card also by Roger.

Roger Barnes is well-known to us as a leading dracologist as well as being a brilliant artist and scholar. We really look forward to his contributions and are grateful to the Editor of New Zealand Armorer for letting us reproduce his drawings.

Later Roger was travelling nearer home and found this Dragon in a spandrel as part of the chancel screen in the ruined Croyland Abbey in Lincolnshire (*below*).



BOOK REVIEW

A Monstrous Commotion – The Mysteries of Loch Ness by Gareth Williams (London, 2016) tells you all you could possibly want to know about this fabulous creature, from the early tentative sightings through to the supposedly scientific searches with sonar, underwater cameras and other paraphernalia. Among those who have been fascinated by the monster are some famous names, including Aleister Crowley, Sir Peter Scott and Nicholas Witchell. We have dealt with various theories from time to time as they have arisen, and welcome this witty and thorough addition to the literature on the topic. As Professor Williams says at the end of the book, ‘almost all of us want the monster to exist, whether or not we believe in it.’

WILD WOODBURNERS

Mark Brocklebank-Smith came across these fiery Dragons (*right and below*) and thought we should see them while they were still burning. Made of iron, they should certainly serve well for quite some time, not a thing many Dragons succeed in doing.



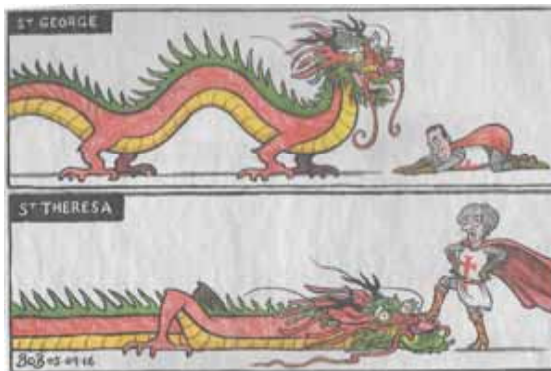


TRAVEL TERRORS

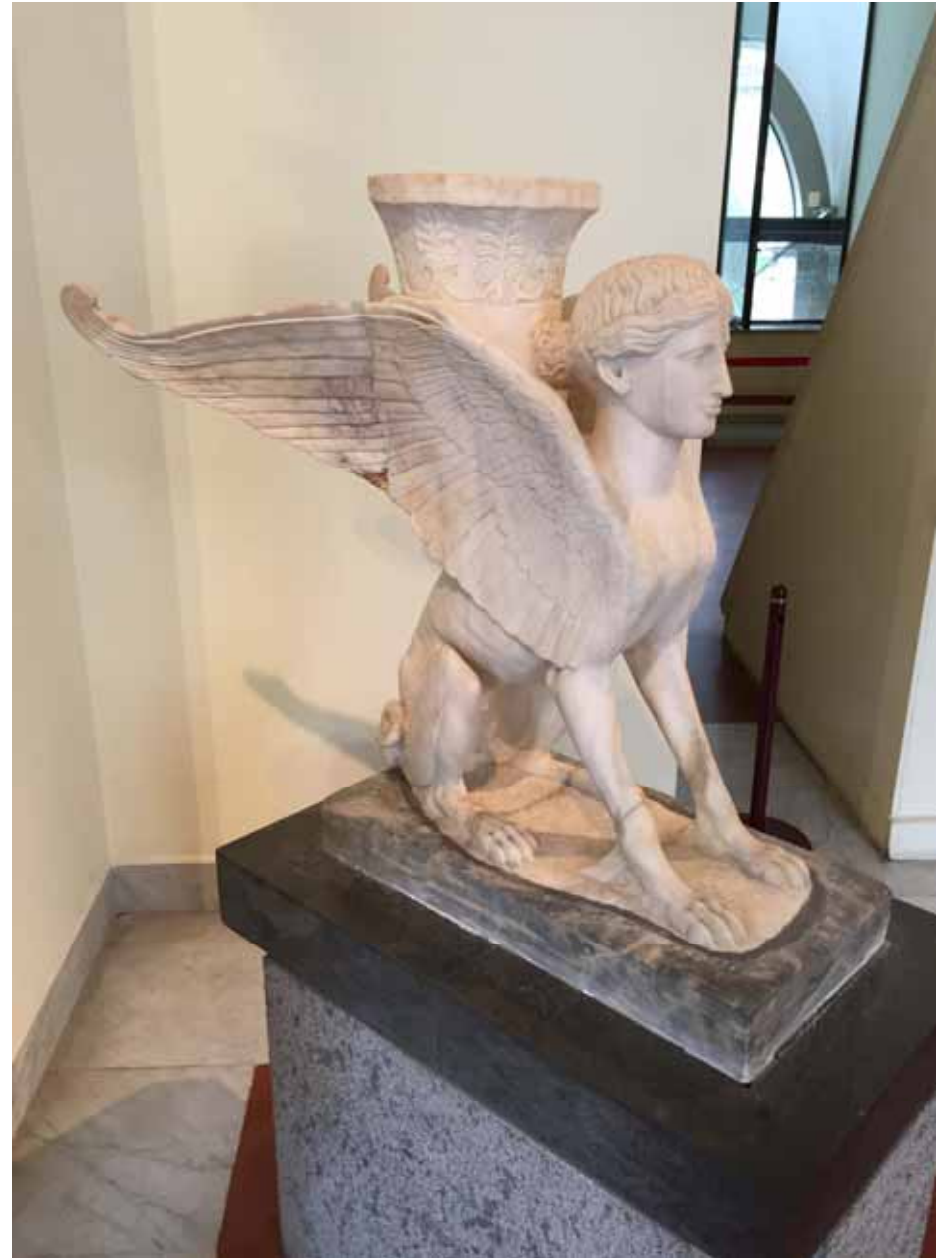
This picture of the Lindwurm Fountain in Klagenfurt was meant to encourage travellers to visit the town, but may in fact have frightened them off. The Lindwurm is, of course, a kind of European Dragon that usually lives underground and thus seldom needs wings, though this one has evidently emerged from his lair and is ready to fly away.

MORE POLITICAL POSTURING

Again the Chinese Dragon represents its land of origin, here above receiving the kowtow from George Osborne, the previous Chancellor of the Exchequer, and below getting the kybosh from Theresa May, the new Prime Minister. Perhaps not an entirely fair comment, but it made a very good cartoon.



BEAUTY AND THE BEAST



Roger Seabury came across this elegant marble Sphinx (of the Greek variety, not the Egyptian) during his travels in Italy, and brought its image home for us all to see.